



# VA Overview



# VA-DoD Sharing ...a Collaborative Partnership





# FY 2007 VA Budget



- Requests \$34.3B for health care, an increase of \$3.5B (11.3%) over FY 2006, to serve 5.3M beneficiaries
- Continues the President's commitment for VA to work closely with DoD to ensure that service members returning from OIF and OEF and their families receive timely, high-quality services and benefits
- Proposes to increase co-pays for pharmaceuticals and to initiate a \$250 enrollment fee for higher income non-service connected veterans



# Key VA/DoD Issues

- Health Executive Council (HEC) Initiatives
  - Demonstration Projects
  - Joint Incentive Fund Projects
- Seamless Transition
- TRICARE Issues
  - Becoming TRICARE Network Providers
  - Obtaining Authorizations
  - Impact of Proposed Increases in Cost Shares
- GAO Report
  - Performance Measures
  - Market Survey



# HEC Initiatives

- Demonstration Projects:
  - One project being terminated – credentialing at San Antonio
  - Developing detailed lessons learned documents
  - LDSI and BHIE projects (San Antonio, El Paso and Madigan) will significantly enhance the ability of each system to review medical record information located in the other Department
  - Will be looking to export successes to other sites
- Joint Incentive Fund Projects – to be discussed in afternoon session





# Seamless Transition



- Current efforts focus on severely injured
- VA social workers and benefits counselors assigned to high volume MTFs:
  - Walter Reed Army Medical Center (AMC) (DC)
  - Bethesda National Naval Hospital (Maryland)
  - Brooke AMC (San Antonio, TX)
  - Naval Hospital Great Lakes (Illinois)
  - Eisenhower AMC (Georgia)
  - Madigan AMC (Washington)
  - Camp Pendleton (California)
  - Ft. Carson (Colorado)



# Seamless Transition (continued)



- Facilitate transfers from a MTF to VAMC
  - Polytrauma Centers
  - Other specialty centers (SCI, TBI, Blind Rehab)
- Initiate benefits claims process (monthly compensation checks)
- Offer other types of services:
  - Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program
  - Readjustment counseling services, including grief counseling for family members



# TRICARE Issues



- VA is seeking to obtain authorized preferred provider status
- Authorizations
  - Need to work with DoD to facilitate process of obtaining authorizations
  - Conflicting policies between the Departments
- Impact of proposed increases in DoD cost shares for TRICARE
  - Shift of workload to VA under review
  - Coordination of Federal Benefits





# GAO Report: VA and DoD Health Care: Opportunities to Maximize Resource Sharing Remain



- Recommendations:
  - Develop an evaluation plan to document and record the advantages and disadvantages of each DSS project to assist in replicating successful projects system-wide
  - Develop performance measures that would be useful for determining the progress of their resource sharing goals
- Acknowledges for the first time that sharing has shifted from using excess capacity to partnering and gaining efficiencies by leveraging resources or buying power jointly



# VA Contacts

- **VHA Central Office contacts:**

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- **VA liaisons in place for three DoD regions:**

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- South

- (210) 292-3232

- West

- (619) 236-5309



# Questions?